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To: Pharmacies, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Oral Surgeons, Optometrists, Dentists, FQHCs, RHCs, and Nursing Homes

RE: Preferred Drug List Update

Effective April 1, 2008, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will update our Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the recent Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) recommendations as well as quarterly updates. The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions	PDL Deletions*
Lantus -Diabetic Agents-Insulin	Ambien CR -Behavioral Health- Misc Anxiolytics/Sedatives/Hypnotics
Qvar - Respiratory-Inhaled Corticosteroids/Single Entity	Lunesta -Behavioral Health- Misc Anxiolytics/Sedatives/Hypnotics
	Methylin -Behavioral Health- Cerebral Stimulants/Agents for ADD/ADHD
	Elestat - EENT Preparations- Antiallergic Agents
	Optivar -EENT Preparations- Antiallergic Agents
	Lotensin HCT - Cardiovascular Health- Ace Inhibitors/Combos
	Univasc -Cardiovascular Health- Ace Inhibitors/Single Entity
	Uniretic -Cardiovascular Health- Ace Inhibitors/Combos

** denotes that these brands will no longer be preferred but are still covered by Alabama Medicaid and will require Prior Authorization (PA). Available covered generic equivalents will remain preferred.*

The PA request form and criteria booklet, as well as a link for a PA request form that can be completed and submitted electronically online, can be found on the Agency website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov and should be utilized by the prescribing physician or the dispensing pharmacy when requesting a PA. Hard copy PA requests may be faxed or mailed to:

**Health Information Designs (HID)
Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services
P. O. Box 3210
Auburn, AL 36832-3210
Fax: 1-800-748-0116
Phone: 1-800-748-0130**

Incomplete PA requests or those failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must document this on the form or submit a written letter of medical justification along with the prior authorization form. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to the Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050. Questions regarding prior authorization procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

March 5, 2008